REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 20-50 are pending in this application.

Request to Acknowledge Applicant's Claim for Foreign Priority and Receipt of Priority Documents:

The present application is a national phase filing of international application no. PCT/GB99/01661 designating the U.S. and claims priority from foreign application nos. GB 9811267.5 filed on May 26, 1998 and EP 98304144.3 filed on May 26, 1998. Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and receipt of certified copies of the priority documents.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103:

Claims 1-14, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Yates et al (U.S. '586, hereinafter "Yates"). Claims 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Yates in view of Lynch-Aird (U.S. '402). Claims 1-19 have been canceled. New claims 20-50 have been added. Applicant submits that none of claims 20-50 are anticipated by Yates nor rendered "obvious" in view of Yates and Lynch-Aird.

Independent claim 20 and its dependents require "...each event message indicating at least one discrete change which has just occurred in the session-related status of an individual user of the session without any historical data." Independent claims 32, 34, 36, 41-42 and 49-50 and their respective dependents require similar features.

Independent claim 40 requires "…each said event message being generated in response to a discrete change which has just occurred in the session-related status of individual users of the system; and, without logically combining the discrete changes detailed in said event messages, transmitting said even messages to the event handler for processing."

The above features are supported by (but not limited to), for example, page 18, lines 12-20 of the originally-filed specification which states the following:

> "It is a characteristic of the event messages transmitted to the event handler 31 that the events detailed in the event messages contain no history data. In other words, the events are not logically combined, and each message concerns only an instantaneous event which has just occurred in the session. This is to be compared with other known ways of generating events, which generally include calculating a duration, by referring to historical usage start date/time on receiving a usage stop date/time. By the events transmitted to the event handler not being logically combined, the flexibility of processing which may be subsequently applied to the events is maintained at a high level."

Page 2, lines 6-13 of the originally-filed specification describes previously known methods of charging for "combined" events. This portion of the originally-filed specification is reproduced below:

> "In this regard, chargeable events, other than subscription-type events, have in the past been generated not as a record of an instantaneous event, but as what as may be referred to as a 'combined' event, generated when instantaneous events are logically combined. For example, in conventional telephony, a chargeable event is recorded in a call record, which specifies the duration of the call by means of both a start time and an end time. In this sense, the chargeable event recorded in the call record is a 'combined' event, consisting of data specifying more than one instantaneous event."
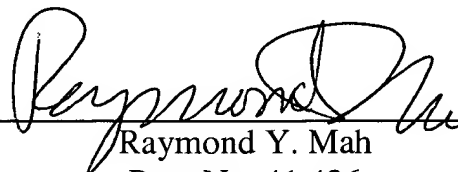
Neither Yates nor Lynch-Aird teaches or suggests any of the above claimed features. For example, while Yates discloses a session manager (see cols. 11-14 of Yates), Yates fails to disclose the session manager generating event messages which indicate at least one discrete change which has just occurred in a user status without any historical data. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 20-50 are allowable.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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